

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSM-03 OMB-01 DHA-02 IO-13
CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /087 W
-----030209Z 040119 /72

R 021623Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1638
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, IS, YE, LY, EG, PO
SUBJ: ARAB PRESSURE ON PORTUGAL

REF: (A) LISBON 4283 (DTG 010754Z JUN 77)(NOTAL),
(B) LISBON 3928 (DTG 171723Z MAY 77)(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: NORTH YEMEN BROKE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
AND LIBYA RECALLED ITS CHARGE TO PROTEST PORTUGAL'S
DECISION TO NORMALIZE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
ISRAEL. DESPITE RISING ARAB PRESSURE, GOP STANDS
FRIM AND ISRAELI AGRICULTURE MINISTER IS CURRENTLY
VISITING PORTUGAL. END SUMMARY.

1. RISING ARAB PRESSURE: PRESSURE ON GOP BY ARAB
NATIONS SEEKING A REVERSAL OF GOP MAY 12 DECISION TO
NORMALIZE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL CONTINUED
TO INCREASE (REF A). LATEST MOVES:

(A) NORTH YEMEN BREAKS RELATIONS: NORTH YEMEN
BROKE RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL JUNE 1. IN JUSTIFYING
BREAK, NORTH YEMEN FOREIGN MINISTRY STATED THAT GOP
MOVE "CONTRADICTED FORMER PORTUGUESE COMMITMENTS TO
THE ARAB CAUSE AND CONSTITUTED A DANGEROUS NEW DEPARTURE
OF LISBON'S FOREIGN POLICY, ONE WHICH COULD THREATEN
THE JUST ARAB CAUSE." PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS
AWAITING FORMAL NOTIFICATION BEFORE COMMENTING.

(B) LIBYA RECALLS CHARGE: THE LIBYAN CHARGE
WAS RECALLED MAY 31. ARAB DISPLEASURE WITH GOP
WAS THE MOTIVE ALTHOUGH NO PUBLIC EXPLANATION HAS
BEEN ISSUED. THE PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTRY, HOWEVER,
REFUSED TO MAKE THIS LINKAGE, CALLING THE RECALL
"ENTIRELY NORMAL."
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2. SOARES STANDS FIRM: PRIME MINISTER SOARES
REITERATED HIS FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE GOP DECISION IN A
JUNE 1 STATEMENT. SOARES STRESSED THAT PORTUGAL'S
"GOOD RELATIONS" WITH ARAB NATIONS DID NOT MEAN THAT
IT COULD NOT HAVE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND THAT
PORTUGAL'S SOVEREIGNTY MADE IT "SOLE JUDGE" OF THE
EXTENT OF ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. IN RELATED
DEVELOPMENTS:

-- THE GOP WELCOMED AHARON UZAN, ISRAELI
AGRICULTURE MINISTER, WHO ARRIVED IN LISBON
MAY 31 FOR SHORT VISIT. ON HIS ARRIVAL,
UZAN CONGRATULATED GOP FOR ITS COURAGE IN
UPGRADING RELATIONS AND "RESISTING ARAB
PRESSURES." UZAN WILL DISCUSS POSSIBLE
ISRAELI AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE.

-- A GROUP OF TWELVE PORTUGUESE JOURNALISTS
AND REPRESENTATIVES OF MAJOR DEMOCRATIC PARTIES
WILL VISIT ISRAEL BEGINNING IN JUNE AT

INVITATION OF GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL.
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